19th March 1955]

Leave for hereditary village officers.

* 1470 *Q*.—SRI M. DHARMALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the hereditary village officers are authorized to appoint village officers in their own place on their own accord when they go on leave for short periods; and

(*b*) if so, whether these acting village officers have power to collect land revenue and to draw pay?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Under the Board's Standing Orders village officers can be granted leave for a period not exceeding three months and satisfactory arrangements can be made for the performance of work by the agency of a relation or friend of the village officer proceeding on leave and on his resposibility."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" மூன்று மாதங்களுக்கு அதிகமாக லீவ் சாங்ஷன் செய்திருந்தால் அந்த விஷயம்பற்றி அரசாங்கம் அந்த அதிகாரிகளின் மேல் நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ள முன் வருமா ?

" Sir, the Hon. Minister just now said that the village officers can be granted leave for a period of three months. If leave had been granted for more than three months, say for six months, will the Government take necessary action against the officer who granted leave for more than three months? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The period of three months can be repeated."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister was not pleased to answer the second part of the question. May I know what the answer to that is? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" It requires paraphrase. I thought he would have done it."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" The Hon. Minister said that the three months can be repeated. If the officer had granted six months' leave at a time, it is illegal as per the reply. Will the Government take action against the officers who have granted six months' leave at a time? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I am not sure about it. This is the ordinary rule. But as in other cases, in exceptional circumstances, the superior officer may perhaps give longer leave."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" These village officers are discharging key functions in the State, being at the bottom of revenue collecting machinery. It is anomalous and shall I say preposterous, that these village officers can go on leave making somebody do the work for long periods. Will the Government

consider abolishing this system as it is so very outmoded and obsolete and substitute new conditions of service which will be in line with other Government services? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" That is entirely a different aspect of the question and as I said sometime ago, that is under consideration."

Government Hospital, Coimbatore.

* 1471 *Q.*—SRI R. KUPPUSWAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of beds in the Coimbatore Government Hospital at present both in Medical and Surgical wards;

(*b*) how many in-patients have been provided with beds with cots and how many are lying on the floor without cots; and

(*c*) whether the Government have any proposal to improve the hospital under the Five-Year Plan or under any other scheme?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) 127 beds in the Medical wards and 105 beds in the Surgical wards.

" (*b*) Only 492 in-patients are provided with cots, the remaining in-patients being accommodated on the floor. The daily average number of in-patients treated in the hospital during 1953 was 683.

" (*c*) None at present.

I wish to add this information : The total number of beds at the Coimbatore Headquarters Hospital was 366 up to May 1954. Government have since increased the bed strength to 500 and also sanctioned the employment of additional staff."

SRI R. KUPPUSWAMY :—" Because of overcrowding, the in-patients are sent out immediately and not kept till they get completely cured. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Advisory Committee of the Hospital have sent any recommendations to the Government for increase of the temporary sheds further and for increase of hospital staff? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is a proposal for further improvement of the hospital at an estimated cost of Rs. 13,11,000 under the Second Five-Year Plan."

SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" May I know whether the Government have received any complaint from the public of Coimbatore that most of the patients are sent away before they are completely cured and a section of the patients coming from West Coast are kept in the Hospital until they are restored to complete health? If so, what action do the Government propose to take for this partial treatment of patients? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, nearly 70 per cent of the diseases can be cured without medicines. But poor patients who get into the hospitals want to remain there